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# FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

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## CHINA.

### Hankow—Typhus Fever.

Consul General Greene at Hankow reports 1 case of typhus fever at Hankow during the week ended June 1, 1912.

### Hongkong—Plague—Smallpox—Plague-Infected Rats.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended June 1, 1912, 140 cases of plague, with 110 deaths, and 3 cases of smallpox, with 3 deaths, were reported at Hongkong.

During the same period 2,666 rats were examined for plague infection; 46 were found to be plague infected.

During the month of May 689 cases of plague, with 587 deaths, and 25 cases of smallpox, with 15 deaths, were reported at Hongkong.

During the same month 10,998 rats were examined for plague infection; 208 were found to be plague infected.

## CUBA.

### Habana—Plague Situation.

Passed Asst. Surg. von Ezdorf reports, July 17:

The first case of plague in Habana was in the person of a Spaniard, 47 years of age, who was taken sick June 30. He was seen by the commission on infectious diseases July 5, and the diagnosis of plague was confirmed July 6. The patient is convalescing.

The second case of plague was in a Spaniard, age 26 years. He was under treatment at the Dependientes Hospital. His illness was suspicious. He died July 10. Six hours before death fluid was obtained by puncture from his swollen femoral glands. This fluid showed a large number of bipolar staining bacilli, which morphologically and by staining reaction were those of plague. The cultural characteristics of the organism were also those of plague.

The infected district, which has been established as four blocks, is in the vicinity of the wharves. On June 20 an anonymous communication was received by the sanitary department to the effect that rats were dying in an area covering two blocks in Oficios Street. Inquiry elicited the information that the mortality among rats had been noticed during the preceding two weeks, and that the unusual mortality had ceased by the time the information reached the sanitary department. Investigation, however, led to the finding of several dead rats. These were necropsied, but were found negative as to plague. Beginning July 8, a routine examination was made of all the rats caught in this district. From July 8 to 14, inclusive, 1,400 rats were examined without any being found infected.

A campaign against rats was begun, and 50 men are engaged in trapping and putting out poison. The work of deratization was first directed to the district in which the unusual mortality had been observed among rats. Then attention was given to the wharves. The work has been extended as rapidly as an organization could be developed. In the blocks in which the unusual mortality among rats was first observed, and which has come to be considered as the known infected area, a cleaning up campaign has been instituted. Orders were issued for the removal of wooden floors and their substitution by cement floors.

In regard to shipping, there are three cement and iron wharves which are absolutely rat proof, and which are now used for the greater part of the outgoing freight. Regarding vessels clearing for United States ports, freight received on the aforementioned rat proof wharves is subject to inspection to insure its freedom from rats. From the wharves the freight is loaded on lighters and thence taken to the vessels. The principal cargoes handled are sugar, tobacco, vegetables, fruits, and hides. The hides that are shipped are salted and disinfected by immersion into a 5 per cent carbolic acid solution, and are kept salted and wet until the day of shipment, when they are packed in bundles. Vessels clearing for United States ports are fumigated while empty. Very few have been fumigated with cargo. For empty vessels,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 pounds of sulphur per 1,000 cubic feet is used, the disinfection continuing for six hours or more. The fumigation is simultaneous for all parts of the vessel with the exception of the engine room. If cargo is taken on after fumigation, a quarantine inspector is detailed aboard the vessel in order to enforce the regulations with regard to communication held with lighters, and also to inspect the cargo for the possible presence of rats. No shore leave is granted to members of crews, nor are vessels allowed to ship crews in Habana.

Passed Asst. Surg. von Ezdorf further reports July 20 that to date 3,015 rats have been caught in Habana and necropsied and that none has been found infected.

Dr. von Ezdorf further reported July 22 that a case which had for some days been considered suspicious had been positively diagnosed to be plague; that the patient had resided in Baratillo Street in the same house as the one occupied by the second case of plague reported; the patient had been ill for nine days, during which time he had been isolated.

This makes to date a total of three positive cases of plague in Habana.

#### HAWAII.

##### Examination of Rodents for Plague Infection.

During the week ended June 22, 1912, 598 rats and mongoose were examined at Hilo and 1,619 at Honokaa. No plague infection was found.

The last case of human plague occurred at Honokaa March 15, 1912. The last plague-infected rat was found between Honokaa and Kapulena April 24, 1912.